

Message Text

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ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293848

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM BONN DATED NOVEMBER 22, 1976 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMEMBASSY BONN 19720

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, CSCE, ECE, GW

SUBJ: CALL ON FONOFF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

LAUTENSCHLAGER: OFFSET; BREZHNEV'S BASKET II

PROPOSALS

1. DURING MY NOVEMBER 18 CALL, DR. LAUTENSCHLAGER,
FONOFF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, NOTED
THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER HAD MADE A STATEMENT TO
THE EFFECT THAT A NEW US/FRG OFFSET AGREEMENT SHOULD
BE NEGOTIATED AND ASKED IF I COULD SHED ANY LIGHT ON
HIS THINKING IN THIS REGARD. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD
NOT SEEN ANY TEXT OF SUCH A REPORTED STATEMENT,
ALTHOUGH I WAS AWARE THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME PRESS
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STORIES ON THE SUBJECT. LAUTENSCHLAGER WENT ON TO

EXPRESS HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE RECENT ARRANGEMENT, WHICH HE CONSIDERED A VERY GOOD SOLUTION TO THE OFFSET PROBLEM.

2. LAUTENSCHLAGER ASKED FOR MY VIEWS ON THE BREZHNEV BASKET II PROPOSALS FOR CONFERENCES ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND ENERGY. I REPLIED THAT WE FELT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, ADDING THAT I SAW THE BREZHNEV INITIATIVE AS AN EFFORT BY THE SOVIETS TO PRODUCE SOMETHING THAT THEY COULD POINT TO AT BELGRADE AS EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING CSCE. LAUTENSCHLAGER OBSERVED THAT THERE ISN'T VERY MUCH OF SUBSTANCE TO FILL OUT A CONFERENCE. THIS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO RESIST PRESSURE FROM WITHIN HIS OWN MINISTRY TO ACCEPT PROPOSALS SUCH AS THOSE OF BREZHNEV, IN WHICH IN HIS VIEW THE FRG HAS NO INTEREST, SIMPLY TO ROUND OUT A BELGRADE AGENDA. I REITERATED OUR OWN LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THE BREZHNEV PROPOSALS.

3. COMMENT: LAUTENSCHLAGER'S REFERENCE TO PRESSURE WITHIN THE FONOFF TO ACCEPT THE BREZHNEV PROPOSALS WAS REFLECTED IN A DISCUSSION WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS AND CSCE COMMISSIONER FASCELL IN BONN ON THE SAME DAY. WHILE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER-LANDRUT DID NOT REPEAT NOT ARGUE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE BREZHNEV PROPOSALS, HE DID POINT OUT THAT THEY COULD NOT BE BURIED FOR ALL TIME IN THE ECE.

4. MEYER-LANDRUT CONTINUED THAT THE WEST SHOULD STUDY WHAT COULD BE USED FROM THE PROPOSALS, CHANGING THE PROPOSALS AS REQUIRED MUCH AS THE ORIGINAL SOVIET-SPONSORED CSCE CONCEPT HAD BEEN CHANGED BY THE WEST FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES. HE NOTED THAT TTJINDMIETS HAD NOT YET PROVIDED US WITH SUFFICIENT DETAILS. MEYER-LANDRUT THOUGHT THAT THE WEST'S FIRST TASK WAS TO PRESS THE SOVIETS TO TELL US WHAT THEY WANTED, WITH THE WEST THEN SELECTING AND INFLUENCING CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSALS.

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5. MEYER-LANDRUT THEN REFERRED TO THE MANY TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS WHICH THE FRG FACED AS THE CROSSROADS OF CENTRAL EUROPE, THE SOLUTIONS TO WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL TO THE FRG. THE PROPOSAL ON THE ENVIRONMENT, HE SAID, RAISED A SPECIAL PROBLEM FOR THE FRG BECAUSE OF THE LOCATION OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICE IN BERLIN. MEYER-LANDRUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG COULD NOT AGREE TO ANYTHING

IN THIS FIELD WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE BERLIN.

6. MEYER-LANDRUT CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS TO FASCELL
ON THE BREZHNEV PROPOSALS BY SUGGESTING THAT THE WEST
BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM IN BELGRADE AND NOT MERELY
CHARGE THE SOVIETS WITH MAKING PROPAGANDA. END COMMENT.
STOESSEL UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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